

**SABANCI UNIVERSITY**  
**SPS 102A / Humanity and Society II**  
**FALL 2022**  
**Top Hat: 560728**

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**Lectures:** On campus on Mondays, 9:40 and 11:30, at FASS G062.

**Discussion Sections:** A1-A5: Tuesdays 14:40-16:30  
A6-A10: Tuesdays 16:40-18:30

**Instructors:** Emre Erol [emre.erol@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:emre.erol@sabanciuniv.edu), Ateş Altınordu [ates.altinordu@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:ates.altinordu@sabanciuniv.edu), Marloes Cornelissen Aydemir [marloes.cornelissen@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:marloes.cornelissen@sabanciuniv.edu), Melike Ayşe Kocacık Şenol [melike.kocacik@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:melike.kocacik@sabanciuniv.edu), Berna Kamay [berna.kamay@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:berna.kamay@sabanciuniv.edu), Fatma Öncel [fatma.ancel@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:fatma.ancel@sabanciuniv.edu).

**(Online) office hours** with instructors by email appointment

**Coordinator:** Ezgi Uzun Teker [ezgi.uzun@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:ezgi.uzun@sabanciuniv.edu)

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**Technical Assistant:** Ezgi Çolakoğlu [ezgi.colakoglu@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:ezgi.colakoglu@sabanciuniv.edu)

**Course Description:** This course provides an introduction to the study of the human experience in the modern world. It brings together the history of major milestones in the modern era, from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and prominent theoretical frameworks that are employed to analyze this transformative period in the history of our species. SPS 102 is designed to be a follow-up of SPS 101 and thus complements the content and the academic skills that were previously introduced. There are three central aims of this course. The first aim is to present our students the challenges and potential in the scientific study of human experience through the introduction of various analytical tools from disciplines such as history, sociology, anthropology, political science, and economics. The second aim is to provide the intellectual foundations that would help our students to understand the dynamics of the contemporary world around them by historicizing its relatively recent formation in the history of humanity. Finally, this course also aims to emphasize the structured use of language, in this case English, for the purposes of knowledge production and critical analysis. It accepts the role of language in humanities and social sciences as important as calculus is for physics. To that end, it pays special attention to critical reading and writing skills as evident from the course structure.

**Grading:** the components of the final course grade are as follows:

Midterm examinations:	45%	(1 <sup>st</sup> midterm 20%, 2 <sup>nd</sup> midterm 25%)
Writing Assignments:	30%	(Research essay proposal: 5% + Process Essay: 25%)
Discussion sessions:	20%	(Twelve discussion weeks, of which eight are graded, five best will count x 4% each)
In-lecture Top Hat questions:	5%	(Five random <i>Top Hat</i> questions x 1% each)
Bonus assignment:	6%	(Read, listen and record assignment)

**Course Requirements:** Students are expected to complete the assigned readings before each lecture, attend the weekly lectures, actively participate in discussion sections, take two midterm exams, and submit a research essay proposal and final process essay. No mandatory attendance is taken for the lectures, but students who miss more than six discussion sections (or more than 12 discussion hours) will automatically get a zero from all their discussion section grades. In addition, those who miss five or more discussion sections and both midterm examinations without a valid excuse will fail the course and be considered NA. Attend your discussions on time, late attendance (10 minutes rule) will not be tolerated.

## Course Components:

Midterm examinations: There will be two midterm examinations in this course to be conducted face-to-face on campus. The first midterm examination constitutes 20% of the course grade, the second midterm 25%. In terms of the examination format, each midterm will consist of short questions and long essay questions. Students will be graded based on their comprehension of the content and their ability to formulate analytical arguments based on that content from the readings, lectures, and discussion sections.

Process essay: Students are expected to write an analytical process essay in two steps based on a list of topics that will be distributed to them in the first week of the discussion sections. The first step of this assignment is the submission of a research essay proposal (by Sunday of Week 6). The research essay proposal must be submitted in the form of a video in which you briefly explain the research question you intend to answer in your process essay including some of the sources you find to provide support for your argument. A short written document with your research question and the references for two of your sources must also be uploaded on SUCourse. This is a chance for you to receive feedback on the suitability of your proposed research question and the sources you find. The second step is the submission of a final process essay to SUCourse (Week 12). Students who wish to seek more guidance have the option of submitting a preliminary draft in Week 9 to receive feedback before the submission of their final process essay in Week 12. This step is not mandatory but voluntary and the submitted draft will not be graded. Students are not allowed to submit works that have already been submitted to this course in the past and/or other courses. All steps of this assignment are considered as take-home exams. Each step, except the ungraded draft, is graded separately. Please make sure to read the 'Process essay guidelines' on SUCourse for more details.

Discussion sessions: Discussion sessions are student-centered learning hours conducted by SPS facilitators. There will be a total of twelve discussion sessions. Every discussion session will consist of two hours and of these twelve sections, eight random sections will have graded exercises which will be submitted to SUCourse during the discussion hour. To this end students are expected to bring their (fully charged) laptop or tablet (no phone!) to the discussion class. The five best of these eight will be counted towards the students' grades. The other four sections will be discussion and skills-learning based meetings. The graded weeks will be worth 4% each. Students are expected to watch the recorded tutorial videos before the discussion sections. Students may also be asked to finish one or more of the assigned readings before the discussion sections. Attendance will be taken regularly during each hour of the discussion sessions. Students who miss more than six discussion sections (or more than 12 discussion hours in total) will automatically get a zero from all their discussion section grades. Students will not be allowed into the discussion sections after ten minutes following the start of the section meeting. No exceptions will be made to this rule.

Lectures: Lectures constitute the backbone of this course. They are central to the design of the course and the content delivered in the lectures will be tested in the midterm examinations. Lecture attendance is not mandatory, but five random in-lecture questions will be asked at random lecture hours throughout the course through the Top Hat system. These are small quizzes that aim to test your comprehension of the lecture and they are not conducted for attendance. Cheating will not be tolerated. Students will not be allowed in the classroom after the first 10 minutes of the lectures. Those who are late to the class and are not admitted to the lecture hall can follow the second hour of the lecture after the break.

Reading assignments: Students are expected to do all required readings. Readings are designed to complement the lectures and discussion sections. A better understanding of any topic is only possible by completing the readings and they are a great source for the process essay. In addition, midterms will have questions based on the reading material.

Audio-Visual Media Sources: There are videos listed for each week in the syllabus. These audio-visual media materials are assigned to enhance both your understanding of each week's topics as

well as your audio-visual media literacy skills. Parts of these media can be used in the discussion sections as well.

**Bonus video assignment:** Technical issues will not be accepted as excuses for not submitting any writing assignments or examinations on time. Additional time (with penalty) for such issues is already provided for some components of this course. Nevertheless, to make up for any lost points a read, listen and record assignment will be provided for a total of 6 points. Several videos will be provided by the course lecturers commenting on one of the course readings accompanied by a set of questions. Students will be expected to record a 5-minute long response to the question provided in the lecturer's video. This assignment will be available on SUCourse by week 5. Please see the SPS 102 Bonus Assignment Guidelines on SUCourse for more details.

**Make-Up Policy:** No make-ups are allowed for research essay proposals and process essays. Late submissions for process essays are allowed only for a single day (until 23:55 of the next day after the original deadline) but there is a penalty for late submissions (5% deduction from your course grade). Make-ups are only allowed for midterms to those with an official report from or approved by the University Health Center for the date of the exam in question and those with an official permission notice from the university for participation in a university event on the date of the exam in question. Students are not allowed to take any form of examination or submit any assignments on days that they have documented excuses. No exceptions will be made to these rules. The make-up exam will be cumulative, meaning that students will be responsible for the content of the entire course in the makeup exam. The format of the makeup exam may be different from the midterms too. There will be no makeup for the makeup exam. For the discussion worksheets, students with an official report from or approved by the University Health Center or an official permission notice from the university for participation in a university event for the date of a discussion section will receive the average points they have received for their other section worksheets throughout the semester only if less than 5 graded worksheets are present for the entire semester. Those who already have a minimum of 5 worksheet grades will not have make-up adjustments in their grades.

**Objection Policy:** Students are only allowed to object to their midterm and paper assignment grades. Bargaining about grades is absolutely not tolerated. All objections must have a solid basis. They must be submitted by email to the relevant facilitator and must be followed by an (online) meeting. The facilitators who graded the assignment in question initially assess the objections. The SPS course coordinator will make a second assessment if need be. All objections must be made within the announced periods of time.

**Assigned Readings:** The SPS102 reader includes all the required readings listed below and these readings will be accessible from the SUCourse web page of the course. Readings should be done before the class for which they are assigned. See the schedule of readings and lectures below.

**Grading Scale:** Final grades will be calculated using the following point distribution:

90-100	A
86-89	A-
82-85	B+
78-81	B
74-77	B-
70-73	C+
66-69	C
62-65	C-
58-61	D+
54-57	D
0-53	F

**Academic Integrity:** Cases of plagiarism and cheating will automatically be penalized with a 0 (zero) from the assignment/ examination and also the entire grade component related to that assignment/examination. In addition to that, these cases will be directly referred to the Dean's

Office for disciplinary action. Students might be called for an authenticity interview for any of the assignments of this course if deemed necessary by the instructors. It should be noted that using (a part of) an assignment or exam submitted before to this or another course is not allowed and is considered as self-plagiarism. Please also be informed that overreliance on external editing and proofreading will be penalized accordingly. This SPS course does not tolerate any breach of academic integrity. For the university's Academic Integrity Statement, see:

<http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/academic-integrity-statement>

**Important Disclaimer:** Amendments could be made to this syllabus. Please follow email and SUCourse announcements throughout the semester.

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## Course Outline and Readings

### Week 1 – (3 October):

Lecture 1: Introduction to the course  
Lecture 2: What is Modernity?

\* Stuart Hall and Bram Gieben, eds. *Formations of Modernity* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2003), pp. 1-16.

\* Video: 'The Modern Revolution,' *Crash Course Big History # 8*, 2014 ([Click me](#))

### Week 2 – (10 October):

Lecture 1: The Industrial Revolution  
Lecture 2: The Great Divergence

\* John Coatsworth et al., *Global Connections: Volume 2, Since 1500: Politics, Exchange, and Social Life in World History* (Cambridge University Press, 2015), pp. 165-190, 231-249.

\* R. Bin Wong, *China Transformed: Historical Change and the Limits of European Experience* (Cornell University Press, 1997), pp. 127-151.

\* Video: 'The Rise of the West and Historical Methodology,' *Crash Course World History #212*, 2014. ([Click me](#))

### Week 3 – (17 October):

Lecture 1: Theories on Capitalism I  
Lecture 2: Theories on Capitalism II

\* Ha-Joon Chang, *Economics: The User's Guide* (Penguin Books, 2014), pp. 47-79.

\* [Optional] Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*, edited by Jeffrey C. Isaac, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012), pp. 73-92.

\* [Optional] Chris Harman, "The Rise of Capitalism," *International Socialism Journal*, 102, (Spring 2004): <http://pubs.socialistreviewindex.org.uk/isj102/harman.htm>

\* Video: 'Economic Schools of Thought' *Crash Course Economics #14*, 2015. ([Click me](#))

### Week 4 – (24 October):

Lecture 1: Colonization and Decolonization: Theory  
Lecture 2: Colonization and Decolonization: Practice

\* Trutz von Trotha, "Colonialism" in Berger, Stefan, ed. *A Companion to Nineteenth-Century Europe 1789-1914* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2006), pp. 432-447.

\* Bernard Porter, *The Lion's Share: A History Of British Imperialism 1850 To The Present*, pp. 1-19.

\* Video: 'How does colonialism shape the world we live in?', *Al Jazeera English*, 2019 ([Click me](#))

**Week 5** – (31 October):

Lecture 1: The Great War (1914-1918)

Lecture 2: The Interwar Era: Economy

\* Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, *The World: A Brief History* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2006), Chapter 27, pp. 790-817.

\* Ronald Findlay and Kevin H. O'Rourke, *Power and Plenty* (Princeton University Press, 2009), Chapter 8, pp. 429-443.

**Week 6** – (7 November):

Lecture 1: Interwar Era: Politics

Lecture 2: The Second World War (1939-1945)

\* Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, *The World: A Brief History*, (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2006), Chapter 28, pp. 818-835.

\* Richard Overy, *The Origins of the Second World War* (Routledge, 2017), pp. 3-10; 32-46.

\* Video: Rick Steves, 'The Story of Fascism in Europe,' *Rick Steves Website*, 2018 ([Click me](#))

**Week 7** – (14 November):

Lecture 1: Political Ideologies: Liberalism

Lecture 2: Political Ideologies: Democracy

\* Edward Fawcett, *Liberalism: The Life of An Idea* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2014), pp. 28-79.

\* Philippe Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl, "What democracy is... and is not", *Journal of Democracy* 2, No. 3 (Summer 1991), pp. 75-88.

\* Video: Anthony D. Romero, 'This is what democracy looks like,' *TED* 2017 ([Click me](#))

<b>First Midterm (Tentative date Saturday 19 November)</b>
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**Week 8** – (21 November):

Lecture 1: Socialism and the Soviet Union

Lecture 2: The Cold War and Decolonization

\* R. R. Palmer, Joel Colton and Lloyd Kramer, *A History of the Modern World*, Vol. 2 since 1815 (New York, NY: Random House), pp. 719-762.

\* Video: Mary Kinmonth, *Revolution - New Art for A New World Documentary*, 2016 ([Click me](#))

**Week 9** – (28 November):

Lecture 1: The Great Acceleration

Lecture 2: Social Movements from the 1960s to today

\* Boris Shoshitaishvili, "From Anthropocene to Noosphere: The Great Acceleration," *Earth's Future*, 6 Dec. 2020.

\* Aldon Morris, "From Civil Rights to Black Lives Matter," *Scientific American*, February 3, 2021 <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/from-civil-rights-to-black-lives-matter1/>

\* Video: 'Social Movements: Society and Culture' *Khan Academy*, 2014. ([Click me](#))

**Week 10** – (5 December):

Lecture 1: Gender in the modern world

Lecture 2: Love in the modern world

- \* Candace West and Don. H. Zimmerman, "Doing Gender," *Gender & Society* 1(2) (1987), pp. 125-151.
- \* Stephanie Coontz, "The World Historical Transformation of Marriage," *Journal of Marriage and Family* 66 (2004), pp. 974-979.
- \* [Optional] Podcast: 'When did Marriage Become so Hard?' *The Hidden Brain*, 2018. ([Click me](#))

**Week 11** – (12 December):

Lecture 1: A brief history of globalism  
Lecture 2: Neoliberalism

- \* Amartya Sen, "How to Judge Globalism", *The American Prospect* 13, no. 1 (2002): pp. 1-14.
- \* Neil Brenner, Jamie Peck and Nik Theodore, "After neoliberalization?," *Globalizations* 7, no. 3 (2010): pp. 327-345.
- \* Video: 'Neoliberalism: The story of a big economic bust up', *A-Z of ISMs Episode 14 - BBC Ideas*, 2019 ([Click me](#))

**Week 12** – (19 December):

Lecture 1: Multiple Securities I  
Lecture 2: Multiple Securities II

- \* Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørsv, "Human Security", in Paul D. Williams and Matt McDonald eds., *Security Studies: An Introduction* (Routledge, 2018), pp. 221-235.
- \* Ralf Emmers, "Securitization," in Allan Collins ed. *Contemporary Security Studies* (Oxford University Press, 2010), pp. 136-151.
- \* Bruce Pilleam, "New Wars, Globalization, and the Failed State," in Peter Hough et al eds., *International Security Studies: Theory and Practice* (Routledge, 2015), pp. 104-118.

**Week 13** – (26 December):

Lecture 1: The Environmental Impact of Modernity: Global Warming and Climate Change I  
Lecture 2: The Environmental Impact of Modernity: Global Warming and Climate Change II

- \* Stephen Mosley, *The Environment in History* (London & New York: Routledge, 2010), pp. 1-12.
- \* Video: 'Science Bulletins: Keeling's Curve – The Story of CO2,' *American Museum of Natural History*, 2014 ([Click me](#))
- \* Video: 'Is It Too Late To Stop Climate Change? Well, it's Complicated,' *Kurzgesagt - In a Nutshell*, 2020 ([Click me](#))

**Week 14** - (2 January):

Lecture 1: Popular culture  
Lecture 2: Social media (communication)

- \* John Storey, "What is Popular Culture?" *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture, 8th Edition* (London and New York: Routledge, 2018), pp. 5-14.
- \* Clay Shirky, "The Political Power of Social Media: Technology, the Public Sphere, and Political Change." *Foreign Affairs* 90 (1) (2011), pp. 28-41.
- \* [Optional] Video: "We're building a dystopia just to make people click on ads." *TED Talk*, 2017 ([Click me](#))

**Second Midterm (In the final exam period, date will be announced on SUCourse)**

**Discussion Session Outline and Important Dates**



**Week 1 - (4 October):** Introduction & Modernity

- Two-hour discussion session.

**Week 2 - (11 October):** The Industrial Revolution & The Great Divergence

- Two-hour discussion session.

**Week 3 - (18 October):** Theories on Capitalism

- Two-hour discussion session.

**Week 4 - (25 October):** No DS

**Week 5 – (1 November):** The Great War & Inter-war Era

- Two-hour discussion session.

**Week 6 - (8 November):** Inter-war Era & Second World War

- Two-hour discussion session.

**Research essay proposals are due on Sunday 13 November, 11:55 pm**

**Week 7 - (15 November):** Liberalism & Democracy

- Two-hour discussion session.

**First midterm (tentative date 19 November; will be announced on SUCourse)**

**Week 8 - (22 November):** Socialism, Soviet Union, Cold War & Decolonization

- Two-hour discussion session.

**Week 9 – (29 November):** The Great Acceleration & Social Movements

- Two-hour discussion session.

**Feedback sessions on the research essay proposal** in office-hours with SL facilitators

**Voluntary Preliminary Draft due on Sunday 4 December, 11:55 pm**

**Week 10 – (6 December):** Gender & love in the modern world

- Two-hour discussion session.

**Week 11 – (13 December):** Globalism & Neoliberalism

- Two-hour discussion session.

**Feedback sessions on the voluntary draft** in office-hours with the SL facilitators

**Week 12 – (20 December):** Multiple Secularities

- Two-hour discussion session.

**Process Essay papers are due on Sunday 25 December, 11:55 pm**

**Week 13 – (27 December):** Global Warming & Climate Change

- Two-hour discussion session.

**Week 14 – (3 January):** No DS

**Bonus assignment deadline Tuesday 3 January, 11:55 pm**

**Second midterm (In the finals period, date will be announced on SUCourse)**

**Feedback sessions on the Process Essay with SL facilitators during finals period**

### **Golden rules for Discussion Sessions**

#### **- Don't be late**

No students are allowed into the classroom after the first 10 minutes. Be punctual and respect the classroom etiquette.

#### **- Communicate in English**

Language is best learned with practice. Discussion sessions are safe environments to make mistakes and ask questions. Use this opportunity and communicate in English.

#### **- Be patient and follow the instructions**

You will be writing, listening, reading and talking a lot in an academic environment. It will initially feel intimidating and hard. Be patient, follow the instructions and work hard. Your language skills will improve throughout the semester, and you will find things easier as you get used to the assignments, the terminology, and the overall logic of the course.

### **How to follow your grade performance**

Freshman year can be overwhelming and demanding. It is always wise to keep a close track of your own performance throughout the course. Below is a simplified formula that will help you predict or calculate your grade. This formula is just a helping tool. It is not definitive and subject to change. Please make sure to consult the actual grading rubric and/or the course coordinator for more accurate information. The formula is as follows:

MT: Midterm examination

(Sum of best 5 discussion worksheet grades) + [(MT1 x 0.20) + (MT2 x 0.25)] + (Sum of writing assignment components) + (sum of Top Hat) + (bonus video assignment)



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. All University Courses contain certain themes that overlap with these goals.

This chart shows how **SPS 102** course content relates to these goals.



Week	Course Content	Sustainable Development Goals						
1	What is Modernity?	2	3	4	7	9		
2	The Industrial Revolution & The Great Divergence	2	3	7	8	9	10	13
3	Theories on Capitalism	8	10	14	15			
4	Colonization & Decolonization	9	16					
5	The Great War & Interwar Era: Economy	8	10					
6	Interwar Era: Politics & Second World War	5	16					
7	Liberalism & Democracy	8	16					
8	Socialism, Soviet Union, Cold War & Decolonization	10	16					
9	Great Acceleration & Social Movements	16						
10	Gender & Love in the Modern World	3	4	5	10			
11	Globalism & Neoliberalism	8	9	10	11			
12	Multiple Securities	All SDGs are mentioned						
13	Global Warming and Climate Change	7	11	12	13	14	15	
14	Popular Culture & Social Media							